

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 11 have been examined. Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and claims 1, 2 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

I. Preliminary Matter

The Examiner has objected to claim 1 due to a minor informality. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 in a manner believed to overcome the objection.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The Examiner maintains that it is uncertain how the plate is curved outward in a direction towards a front end of the reel body. However, in the October 13, 2005 Amendment, Applicant provided an annotated Figure 8 which depicted a reference numeral for the plate which was already shown in the figure, but not labeled. The added reference numeral (i.e., 24) labels the plate which is curved outward towards a front end of the reel body. Since the feature is already shown in the figure, Applicant submits that it does not constitute new matter. Also, Applicant has reviewed the PTO PAIR system and confirms that the figure is scanned in and available for the Examiner's review. Applicant requests the Examiner to approve the annotated drawing.

In regard to the "front end," Applicant submits that the reel can have a front end and a back end. As set forth in claim 1, the front end is labeled as the end with the plate. Accordingly,

the other end which does not have the plate can arbitrarily be considered as the “back end.”

However, the addition of such recitation is not necessary to a proper understanding of the claim.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 11 is not indefinite.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,443,218 to Ciocca (“Ciocca”).

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 recites that a rotation axis of the handle is substantially parallel to a rotation axis of the spool. Also, the spool is rotatably supported between the right and left side plates of the reel body. Applicant refers the Examiner to at least the non-limiting embodiment shown in elected Figure 8 of the present Application.

Applicant submits that Ciocca fails to teach or suggest the above feature. The basic structure of Ciocca relates to a type of spinning reel, while the present invention is related to a type of bait casting reel. When comparing the views shown in at least Figures 2 and 3 of Ciocca, the rotation axis of the handle 30 is substantially perpendicular to the rotation axis of the spool 18. Further, the spool 18 is provided *outside* of the housing containing the reel 14 (Figure 3), rather than between right and left side plates of the reel body, as recited in claim 1.

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In view of the above, Applicant submits that Ciocca fails to teach or suggest the claimed fishing reel.

B. Claims 2 and 11

Since claims 2 and 11 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

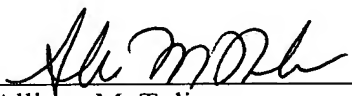
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